

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 6, 2009

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 14, 2009

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009—10 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 671

Introduced by Assembly Member Krekorian

February 25, 2009

An act to ~~amend Sections 3402 and 3404 of~~ *add Chapter 9.9 (commencing with Section 3410) to Division 4 of Title 1 of the* Government Code, relating to the Golden Shield Award.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 671, as amended, Krekorian. Public Safety Golden Shield Award.

The Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Act authorizes the Governor to annually award and present in the name of the State of California a Medal of Valor to one public safety officer, as defined, who is cited by the Attorney General, upon the recommendation of the board, for extraordinary valor above and beyond the call of duty.

This bill would ~~authorize~~ *require* the Governor to additionally annually award and present in the name of the State of California a Golden Shield Award ~~to one the next of kin of, or immediate family members of, every public safety officer who is cited by the Attorney General, upon the recommendation of the Medal of Valor Review Board,~~ who, while serving under competent authority in any capacity, has been ~~wounded or killed, or who has died after being wounded~~ in the line of duty.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 9.9 (commencing with Section 3410) is
2 added to Division 4 of Title 1 of the Government Code, to read:

3
4 CHAPTER 9.9. CALIFORNIA GOLDEN SHIELD ACT
5

6 3410. This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the
7 California Golden Shield Act.

8 3411. The Governor annually shall award, and present in the
9 name of the State of California, a Golden Shield Award of
10 appropriate design, with ribbons and appurtenances, to the next
11 of kin of, or immediate family members of, every public safety
12 officer who, while serving under competent authority in any
13 capacity, has been killed in the line of duty in that year.

14 3412. For the purposes of this chapter, “public safety officer”
15 means a person serving a public agency, with or without
16 compensation, as a firefighter, law enforcement officer, or
17 emergency services officer, as determined by the Attorney General.
18 “Law enforcement officer” includes a person who is a corrections
19 or court officer or a civil defense officer.

20 SECTION 1. Section 3402 of the Government Code is amended
21 to read:

22 3402. ~~(a) The Governor annually may award, and present in~~
23 ~~the name of the State of California, a Medal of Valor of appropriate~~
24 ~~design, with ribbons and appurtenances, to one public safety officer~~
25 ~~who is cited by the Attorney General, upon the recommendation~~
26 ~~of the Medal of Valor Review Board, for extraordinary valor above~~
27 ~~and beyond the call of duty. In exceptional circumstances, the~~
28 ~~Governor may award more than one Medal of Valor in a year. The~~
29 ~~Public Safety Medal of Valor shall be the highest state award for~~
30 ~~valor awarded to a public safety officer.~~

31 ~~(b) The Governor annually may award, and present in the name~~
32 ~~of the State of California, a Golden Shield Award of appropriate~~
33 ~~design, with ribbons and appurtenances, to one public safety officer~~
34 ~~who is cited by the Attorney General, upon the recommendation~~
35 ~~of the Medal of Valor Review Board, who, while serving under~~
36 ~~competent authority in any capacity, has been wounded or killed,~~
37 ~~or who has died after being wounded in the line of duty. In~~

1 ~~exceptional circumstances, the Governor may award more than~~
2 ~~one Golden Shield Award in a year.~~

3 ~~SEC. 2. Section 3404 of the Government Code is amended to~~
4 ~~read:~~

5 ~~3404. (a) The board shall conduct its first meeting not later~~
6 ~~than 90 days after the appointment of the last member appointed~~
7 ~~of the initial group of members appointed to the board. Thereafter,~~
8 ~~the board shall meet at the call of the chair of the board. The board~~
9 ~~shall meet not more than once each year.~~

10 ~~(b) A majority of the members of the board shall constitute a~~
11 ~~quorum to conduct business, but the board may establish a lesser~~
12 ~~quorum for conducting hearings scheduled by the board. The board~~
13 ~~may establish by majority vote any other rules for the conduct of~~
14 ~~the board's business, if the rules are not inconsistent with this~~
15 ~~chapter or other provisions of law.~~

16 ~~(c) The board shall recommend candidates for the Medal of~~
17 ~~Valor and the Golden Shield Award from among the applications~~
18 ~~received by the board. Not more often than once each year, the~~
19 ~~board may present to the Attorney General the name or names of~~
20 ~~those it recommends as candidates for the Medal of Valor and the~~
21 ~~Golden Shield Award. In a given year, the board shall not be~~
22 ~~required to recommend any candidates but may not recommend~~
23 ~~more than five candidates. The Attorney General in extraordinary~~
24 ~~cases may increase the number of candidates in a given year. The~~
25 ~~board shall set an annual timetable for fulfilling its duties under~~
26 ~~this chapter.~~

27 ~~(d) The board may hold one annual hearing, sit and act at a~~
28 ~~designated time and place, administer oaths, take testimony, and~~
29 ~~receive evidence as the board considers advisable to carry out its~~
30 ~~duties.~~

31 ~~(e) Witnesses requested to appear before the board may be paid~~
32 ~~the same fees as are paid to witnesses pursuant to the Code of Civil~~
33 ~~Procedure. The per diem and mileage allowances for witnesses~~
34 ~~shall be paid from funds donated to the board.~~

35 ~~(f) The board may secure directly from any state department or~~
36 ~~other state or local agency information as the board considers~~
37 ~~necessary to carry out its duties. Upon the request of the board,~~
38 ~~the head of a department or agency may furnish information to the~~
39 ~~board.~~

- 1 ~~(g) The board shall not disclose any information that may~~
- 2 ~~compromise an ongoing law enforcement investigation or is~~
- 3 ~~otherwise required by law to be kept confidential.~~